

Mapping indicators of food security, human well-being, ecosystem services, and climate solutions in Senegal

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Since its inception nine years ago, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification (SIIL) has advanced agricultural practices to improve crop yields and livestock production across 13 countries sustainably. The research and on-the-ground leadership have resulted in data-driven strategies combined with pragmatic recommendations to foster local adaptations and wider adoption. A fundamental assumption underlying these efforts is that increased yield is the most effective lever for decreasing hunger and malnutrition.

Although SIIL takes a systems approach to “integrating socio-economic and biophysical innovations” in agricultural production, a more holistic view of the food system can assure that agricultural interventions are positioned to improve people’s lives. Other essential aspects of human well-being that constrain food security include income, access to electricity and clean water, adaptation to climate change, and the benefits of natural capital. The needs are great. For example, the World Bank estimates that in sub-Saharan Africa, 34% of the population lives in poverty, 22% are undernourished, 71% are without access to electricity in rural areas, 66% lack access to basic sanitation, and 187 deaths per 100,000 are attributed to poor household air quality. With a more holistic view of the food system, these challenges can be addressed.

Climate change is a--perhaps the--major constraint to improving human well-being. Droughts and shifts in the rainy season decrease agricultural production and water availability and increase stress on people’s physical and mental health. The problem continues to worsen. Guided by national governments, USAID, and many additional partners, countries are developing and implementing plans for low-carbon development to grow their economies and improve lives.

To help fulfill SIIL’s mission of “integrating socio-economic and biophysical innovations” of the food system, we developed about 50 data products to help guide funding for which strategies and places will do the most good and meet the greatest needs. These high-resolution spatial data products map indicators of human well-being, climate solutions, and ecosystem services.

Mapping human well-being

Climate change has already adversely impacted the health of populations globally. Climate solutions like clean cooking fuels, community-scale solar, and agroforestry benefit both climate and people. To identify places where climate solutions could do the most good, we used demographic and geospatial data to map indicators of food security, land tenure, income and wealth, and access to electricity, clean cooking fuels, and clean water.

Mapping ecosystem services

Nature provides a foundation of services critical to maintaining human well-being, particularly for people whose livelihoods depend directly on nature-based activities or who, due to economic insecurity, are more exposed to environmental risks. In order to assess baseline provision of these services, we analyzed the current distribution of six critical functions (pollination, carbon storage, watershed baseflow, sediment retention, nitrogen retention, and phosphorus retention) across Senegal. We then assessed landscape-level impacts of five nature-based climate solutions – three agroforestry practices (agroforestry parkland systems, silvopasture, cashew plantations), habitat restoration, and habitat conservation – on the distribution of ecosystem services across the country. We calculated each climate solution’s average ecosystem service impact on each relevant land cover type.

Note: This report has five sections: Human well-being, Clean Cooking, Village-Scale Solar, Agroforestry & Silvopasture, and Ecosystem Services. Each section provides a summary, methods, and results.

Author contributions

PCW and JSG conceptualized and designed the project. RB led the mapping of indicators of human well-being, ADS led the modeling and analysis estimating build requirements for off-grid solar and battery systems, YJ led the analysis for clean cooking and agroforestry. PH, EL, and CN co-led the analysis of ecosystem services. PCW led the project. PCW and JSG collaborated with each of the section leaders. Additional contributors for each section are listed in each section's summary. All authors contributed to the writing.

Acknowledgments

These products were developed for Senegal, building on previously funded work conducted under the Geospatial, Farming Systems, and Digital Tools Consortium Building a New Era of Predictive Agricultural Innovation to Improve the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers. SILL leadership Ignacio Caiampitti, Vara Prasad, and Jan Middendorf provided overall guidance during the proposal process. The research benefited from discussions with several partners early in the project: Papa Mamadou Dit Soudou Sylla and André Diatta (Gaston Berger University), Anta Agne (Alioune Diop University of Bambrey), Nafissatou Bâ Lo (National Council for Rural Development), Maty Diagne Camara (National Ministry of Health), Fatou Gueye (Senegal – Crossroads International), Ndeye Yaga Sy (Helen Keller International), Mohamadou Lamine Sow (Senegal - World Food Program), and Cheik Faye (African Population Research Center).

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Human Well-Being

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Summary

- Climate solutions can have significant benefits for people’s health, food security, and livelihoods.
- Spatial analysis can help identify where the needs are greatest.
- Here we use demographic and geospatial data to map indicators of food security, land tenure, income and wealth, and access to electricity, clean cooking fuels, and clean water.
- The results can be used to target where climate solutions will have the largest benefit to people.

Introduction

Climate variability and change is projected, and has already begun, to adversely impact the health of populations globally (Black et al., 2008; Funk & Brown 2009; Gasparrini et al., 2017; Patz et al., 2005). Climate solutions like clean cooking fuels, community-scale solar, and agroforestry can provide the co-benefits of improved health and well-being in nearby populations. Identifying areas where these climate solutions could be most beneficial to communities is an important step in implementing solutions to reduce greenhouse gasses and improve the current and future health and well-being of populations.

Using individual-level population survey data can inform the implementation of these solutions by providing insight on local, household, and individual vulnerabilities and strategies used to manage climate risks. The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) are nationally representative to the first administrative level and widely used in population and demographic research and policy development. The DHS regularly collect individual-level population and health data in low- and middle-income countries and are spatially referenced to a sampling cluster with a latitude and longitude. However, to improve the understanding of local decision making and support solutions implementation, more disaggregated data are needed than what are currently available from the DHS data.

Responding to the need for more disaggregated population and health data, several studies have explored the use of geospatial modeling to interpolate the DHS data over a

Children who are stunted	The DHS reports anthropometric measurements for children under age 5, namely height and weight, in terms of z-scores. Height-for-age refers to the difference between a child's height and the median height for a child of the same age and sex. A child with a HAZ value that is equal to or less than -2 is considered stunted.	Stunting in children reflects chronic, long-term undernutrition and potentially indicates that a household is food insecure. Anthropometric measures used to calculate stunting are routinely and widely collected across surveys and can be used to monitor progress on health and food security targets (Black et al., 2008).
Households with piped water	This variable indicates the main source of drinking water for a household. Piped water could include water piped into the dwelling or yard, a public tap, or water piped into a neighbor's dwelling.	Piped water is an indicator of a household's access to improved water quality. Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to health and wellbeing. Piped water is also a proxy measure for household income and degree of urbanization (DeSherbinin, 2011).
Households with unclean cooking fuel	This variable indicates the main type of fuel used for cooking in a household. Unclean cooking fuel refers to any coal, charcoal, wood, dung, or crop-based fuel. Note: coal and charcoal are not consistently defined. Some surveys and censuses group charcoal with coal and charcoal with wood.	Cooking fuels are a proxy for indoor air quality. Improved or clean cooking fuels are associated with improved air quality and lower respiratory illness and stunting risk (Shively & Schmiess, 2021).
Households with electricity	This variable reports whether a household has electricity.	Like floor type, access to electricity is a measure of a household's access to pooled resources. It is also an indicator of access to public infrastructure and is linked to improved health and wellbeing (Balk et al., 2005; Davenport et al., 2017).

- All data preparation and analysis performed in R Studio
- Prepare the DHS indicators for interpolation
 - Retrieve most recent survey data (2019) for Senegal from the DHS program website: <https://dhsprogram.com/>

This approach has also been used by the DHS in their own in interpolations and is well documented in their Spatial Analysis Reports (CITE).

- o Using the Caret, mgcv, xgboost, glmnet packages in R I fit three submodels. The result of each model is a predictive surface of the health indicator.
 - Generalized Additive Model (GAM)
 - LASSO
 - Gradient Boosting Machines (GBM)
 - The results of these models are log transformed so they are all on the same scale.
 - Each submodel is fit with the full dataset which will produce the in-sample predictions that will be used as covariates when generating the predictions from the full geostatistical model
 - The final modeling approach takes results of these three stacked models (GAM, LASSO, and GBM) and uses them as covariates in a Bayseian geostatistical model.
 - o Stochastic partial differential equation approach using INLA (Integrated Nested Laplace Approximation) in R

Results

Descriptive name	File name	Level	Resolution
Floor type – The main material of the floor of a household. Unfinished floor includes a floor with natural or rudimentary materials	Pred_floor_0515.tif	Household	5km
Own land – Indicates whether a woman in a household owns land.	Pred_ownland_0515.tif	Maternal	5km

Stunting – Indicates whether a child is stunted. Stunting is defined using the World Health Organization definition of a Height-for-Age z-score of -2 or below	Pred_stunt_0515.tif	Child	5km
Water – The main source of drinking water for a household. Piped water indicates the water is piped into or outside the residence.	Pred_water_0515.tif	Household	5km
Cooking fuel – The type of fuel used in cooking in the household. Unclean cooking fuel refers to coal, charcoal, wood, dung, or crop-based fuel.	Pred_cook_dirty.tif	Household	5km
Electricity – Indicates whether the household has electricity.	Pred_elec_0515.tif	Household	5km

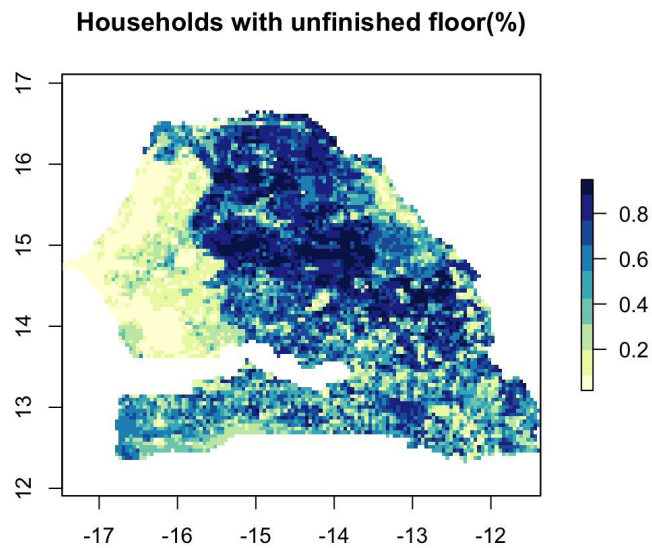


Figure 1: The percentage of households in Senegal with unfinished floors. The scale is indicated as a fraction. The percentage is highest in the central and western areas of the country. Households in the western and coastal areas including major cities, Dakar, Thies, Kaolack, and Saint Louis, mostly have finished floors.

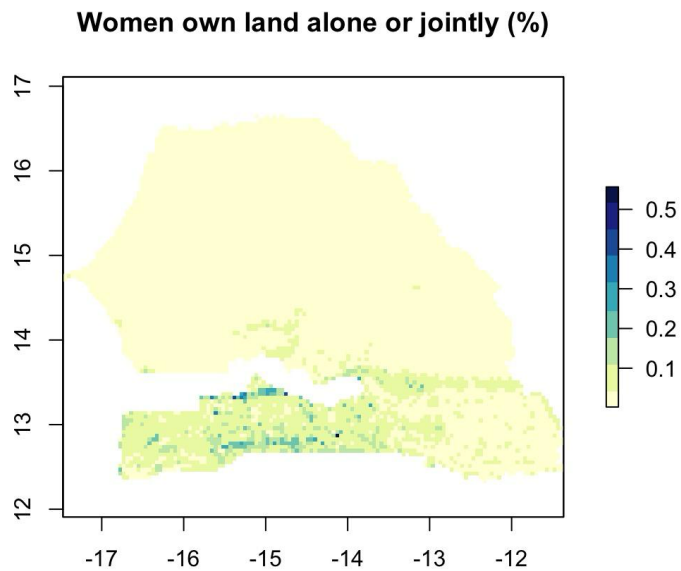


Figure 2: The percentage of women who own land alone or jointly. The scale is indicated as a fraction. The percentage is low throughout Senegal (less than 10%). The highest percentages of households where women own land are found in the southern areas of the country.

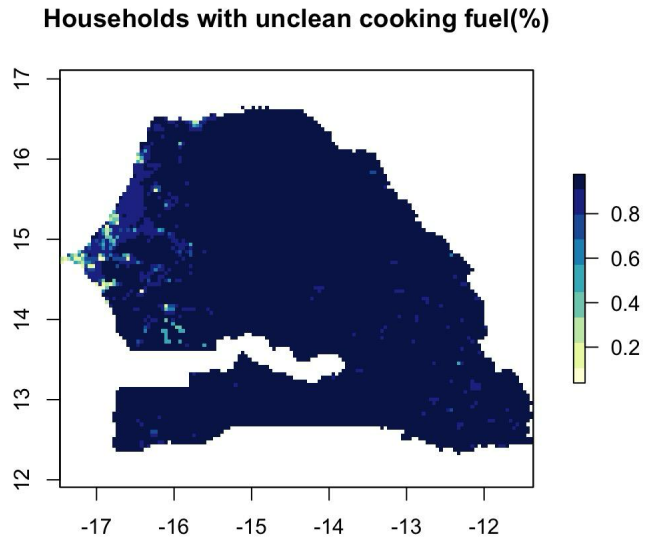


Figure 5: Percentage of households using unclean cooking fuel. The scale is indicated as a fraction. The majority of households in Senegal are using unclean cooking fuels. The percentages are the lowest in western and coastal areas of the country.

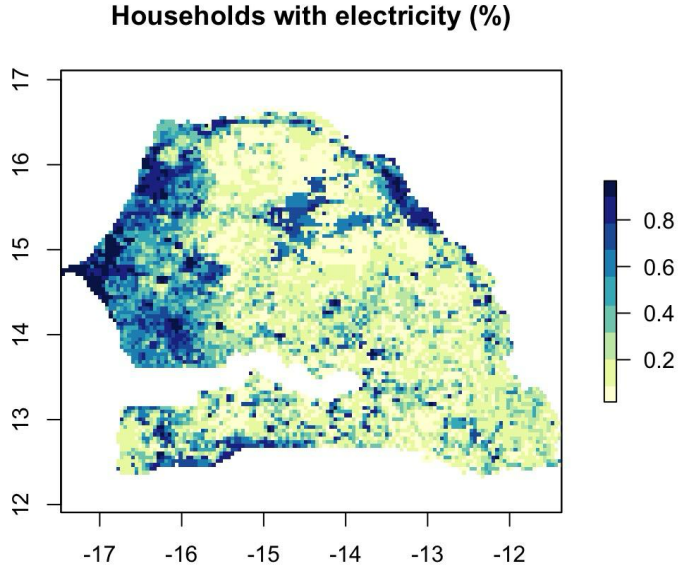


Figure 6: The percentage of households with access to electricity. The scale is indicated as a fraction. Lower percentages are found throughout rural Senegal. The percentage is highest in western and coastal areas of Senegal where households generally have more access to electricity.

Table 1: Distribution of clean (green) and unclean (red) cooking fuel in Senegal in 2020. Source: Stoner et al. 2021

	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Electricity	0	1
LPG	3	34
Charcoal	15	45
Biomass	81	18

We use the OnStove tool to identify a realistic mix of clean cooking fuel that could be implemented (Khavari et al. 2023) right now. Briefly, the OnStove tool (Khavari et al. 2023) is a raster-based tool that evaluates the net benefit of different stoves for countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The tool relies on geographic, socio-economic, and technological data. It identifies the fuel mix that results in the highest net benefit (reduced morbidity and mortality, emissions, time savings, and costs).

For our analysis, we implemented the OnStove model for Senegal. First, we downloaded the Python code from [GitHub](#) and the required data to run the model from Mendeley. The [GitHub](#) repository provides extensive guidance on downloading, installing, and executing the OnStove tool. Second, we executed the model in Python and obtained the following outputs (Table 2). Finally, we summarized the information at the sub-national level for Senegal using GADM level 3 boundaries to present our findings.

Table 2: Outputs from the OnStove model.

Outputs
Optimum stove mix map
Clean cooking technology usage by % of population
Deaths avoided
Average time saved per household

ICS’s climate, health, and economic co-benefits are limited (Mortimer et al., 2016, Foote et al., 2013) . The OnStove model results demonstrate that Senegal has the infrastructure and capacity to implement advanced cooking solutions such as electricity, LPG, and biogas across much of the country and it should prioritize these fuels in the long-term.

4. **Explore carbon markets and innovative funding mechanisms:** widespread adoption of clean cooking fuel is impossible without access to capital. While Senegal has benefitted with funding and financial support from [Green Climate Fund](#) and [Clean Cooking Alliance](#), it needs to urgently utilize the rapidly growing carbon market which has allowed clean cooking companies and carbon project developers to partner and create innovative financial mechanisms to fund clean cooking projects. [Nordic Green Bank’s Modern Cooking Facility for Africa](#) and [Spark+ Africa investment fund](#) are a few examples that have chartered novel pathways to create the financial framework for clean cooking transition.
5. **Establish a national coordinating body:** To achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030 Senegal needs an annual adoption rate of 10% or more per year. Implementing such high rates of adoption is inherently challenging. It requires coordination between several actors, including ministries, departments, offices, businesses, communities, and other stakeholders. Establishing or strengthening a regular working group as a point of coordination can maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts.
6. **Strengthen data collection efforts:** clear and reliable data is essential to sequence activities and to impact the most people with the fewest resources. Dedicating a small proportion of human and financial resources to ensure adequate data collection on household fuel usage can ensure policies are unrolled effectively.
7. **Identify and deploy low-cost public education efforts:** building awareness of the importance of clean cooking is a critical hurdle in transitioning. Partnering with women’s groups, markets, theater troupes, students, and other volunteers may be a low-cost and effective way to educate the public on the need for clean cooking solutions - especially in rural areas.

Files in repository

All related code and raster files have filenames that start with “Clean-cooking_” followed by:

Code:

Senegal clean cooking analysis.Rmd

Senegal (2020). Intended Nationally Determined Contribution towards Achieving the Objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/CDNSenegal%20approuv%C3%A9e-pdf.pdf>

Stoner, O., Lewis, J., Martínez, I. L., Gummy, S., Economou, T., & Adair-Rohani, H. (2021). Household cooking fuel estimates at global and country level for 1990 to 2030.

Nature communications, 12(1), 5793. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-26036-x>

Village-Scale Solar

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Summary

- Access to electricity is critical for improving food security and many other aspects of human well-being.
- Here, we created a simple model to estimate the design requirements for off-grid solar systems for households, hamlets, small settlements, and built-up areas in rural Senegal.
- The modeled systems are designed to generate enough electricity and storage to provide 1.5 kWh/person/day with a reliability target of 95% of hours annually having their load covered by PV and/or battery. (This assumes a low night-time consumption profile.)
- Depending on the number of individuals in a household, and whether or not some appliances are shared among households, 1.5 kWh/person/day may be sufficient to provide enough electricity to power medium- and high-intensity appliances, such refrigerators, washing machines, and air circulation systems.
- While we estimate the design requirements here, the model is intended to be used as a starting point and, where data are available, be revised based on local climate, electricity demand, products, and costs.

Introduction

- Access to electricity is strongly linked to improved income, which is a leading indicator of food security.
- Access to electricity also improves food security by enabling the use of equipment and products for milling, processing, storing, and transporting food.
- Access to electricity is also linked to access to clean water, and improvements in health, education, and gender equality.
- 57% of the rural population in Senegal lacked access to electricity in 2019 (IEA et al. 2023)
- Off-grid solar installations can be implemented faster than waiting for grid expansion

- USAID, The World Bank, and other institutions are investing in communities and private companies to install off-grid solar systems

Methods

The following steps were used to create the model in the code notebooks based on the assumptions listed below.

- Research most likely PV array type and battery type by location (Senegal, or Africa in general) and cost.
- Use hourly load profile developed by Huld et al. (2017) and scale according to the number of people by:
 - Calculating the total electricity consumption per day in the load profile.
 - Estimating the electricity consumption per day per person for a microgrid consumer.
 - Scaling according the population for a variety of settlement sizes:
 - 8 people (average household size)
 - 25 people
 - 50 people
 - 500 people
 - 1000 people
 - 1500 people
 - 3000 people
 - Settlement categories and population estimates were based on a settlement dataset developed by Esri (2024). The UN estimates that the average household size is eight people (UN 2019).
- Use PVWatts to model electricity produced by the PV system using Dakar International solar radiation data in kWh per hour.
 - The 8 person system is modeled as rooftop PV with a 15 degree angle.
 - All larger system sizes modeled as ground-mounted PV with a 15 degree angle.
- Verify that PVWatts electricity production data (AC output) will scale with the size of the PV system in kWp (kW peak).
- Create a battery model in code and assign a simple charge/discharge algorithm to the battery, enforcing its maximum depth of discharge and rates of charging/discharging.
- Vary the PV system size in the computer model and scale the electricity production data to match.
- Vary the battery system size in the computer model and quantify the amount of unmet hours of demand for each population size.
- Use trial-and-error sizing to meet the desired reliability rate of 95% of hours having the demand covered by either PV or the battery system.
- Optimize PV size and battery system size sequentially so that the costs are minimized while the desired reliability is met.

Results

- We developed a model to estimate the system requirements and costs of providing 1.5kWh/capitata/day using an off-grid photovoltaic and battery storage system.
- Two types of systems were modeled. Rooftop solar was modeled for an individual household. For communities ranging from 25 - 3,000 people, we modeled a ground-mounted system that distributed electricity across the community. Model code files in the repository: *Senegal solar PV rooftop.ipynb* and *Senegal solar PV fixed ground mount.ipynb*
- See PV and We estimated the system requirements and costs for off-grid photovoltaic systems with battery storage in rural Senegal are summarized (Table 1.)

Limitations

- System sizing and reliability are highly sensitive to the load profile; that is, how much electricity is called for at a given time. The assumed load profile used to model electricity demand does not specify specific models of equipment or specific demand patterns that would be used in any particular household. The model further assumes that each household has the same electricity consumption, and that each day has the same electricity load profile. No ground-truth electric load data was available. Simulating the true variation in loads for a given community may demonstrate that the actual reliability is lower than indicated, or that the system is undersized to meet the reliability threshold: for example, if many households use high-intensity appliances at once, such that the power requirements become higher than those in the assumed load profile, the PV + battery system could be insufficient to meet the combined demand.
- Hourly solar radiation data in a format usable for the PVWatts tool was only available for Dakar. As such, all model results are based on those data. Dakar and the west of Senegal have above-average irradiance, while other areas, particularly the south of Senegal, daily PV output may be lower by up to 10% (SolarGIS, 2021). Therefore, system sizes may be underestimated for locations far from Dakar. Local weather data and the exact model of PV panels and batteries must be obtained to determine the appropriate size in each location.
- Cost data was drawn from a study considering the wider region of sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and South Asia (Szabó et al, 2021). Actual cost data for the PV and batteries available in Senegal will vary according to local economies and supply chains.

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<https://doi.org/10.3390/en10020218>

Agroforestry and Silvopasture

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August 2024

Summary

- Agroforestry and Silvopasture are practices that incorporate trees and shrubs with crop and livestock farming, with multiple benefits including increased farmer income, increased carbon storage relative to some farming methods, and benefits to biodiversity and soils.
- Here, we compare published maps of above ground biomass (AGB) to a simple model of AGB associated with these practices to explore potential benefits of their implementation in Senegal.
- We find significant potential for benefits conversion of current agricultural landcover (mostly within the Sudanian Savanna ecoregion) to agroforestry, and limited potential for benefits for conversion of current agricultural landcover to silvopasture.

Introduction

Agroforestry and silvopasture are sustainable agricultural methods that integrate trees and shrubs with farming and livestock grazing to enhance carbon sequestration and improve ecosystem resilience. In agroforestry, trees are interplanted with crops, whereas in silvopasture, trees are incorporated into grazing lands.

Agroforestry and silvopasture also offer extensive co-benefits. They provide livestock with necessary shade and shelter, reducing heat stress. These systems also reduce soil erosion, and enhance soil health and water absorption, thereby boosting agricultural productivity and increasing farmer incomes (Smith et al. 2022, Pezo et al. 2018, Castle et al. 2021, Felix et al. 2018). Furthermore, these practices foster more varied habitats by integrating diverse plant species. They can support an increased range of wildlife, including insects, birds, and mammals, thus promoting biodiversity (Smith et al. 2022, Pezo et al 2018).

tree planting with cropping to boost carbon sequestration and biodiversity. They should also explore the potential of the carbon market as a crucial mechanism to finance these solutions, which can provide small farmers with additional income through compensation for sustainable agriculture and help them transition to these farming systems.

Protect High AGB Ecosystems: Enforce regulations to save and prevent the conversion of high AGB ecosystems like Guinean mangroves and natural southeastern forests into agroforestry or silvopasture systems. Implementing strict land-use controls and increasing monitoring to preserve biodiversity is vital for their preservation.

Adapt Silvopasture Practices: Promote customized silvopasture practices in the eastern Sudanian savanna, where AGB is below potential. Provide training and resources to implement sustainable practices that combine livestock grazing with forestry, aiming for gradual ecological improvement.

Limitations and caveats

Our analysis, while providing high-resolution maps on the suitability of agroforestry and silvopasture, has some limitations.

First, we assume a fixed value of the maximum potential AGB for each ecoregion. While these values are a good first-order approximation, the maximum AGB can vary within an ecoregion depending on multiple factors, including soil quality, microclimate, and water availability.

Second, we do not identify the combination of trees and shrubs that can result in maximum climate and human well-being benefits. The benefits of agroforestry and silvopasture can vary depending on the choices of trees and shrubs. For example, a review study in West Africa revealed that shrubs might be better suited than trees for integrating with millet and sorghum to increase yields (Felix et al. 2018). Studies in the USA have shown that the increase in income from agroforestry can vary greatly depending on the agroforestry system (Greene et al. 2023). Consultation with local farmers and practitioners who have adopted agroforestry and silvopasture will provide useful insights to maximize the benefits of implementing these practices.

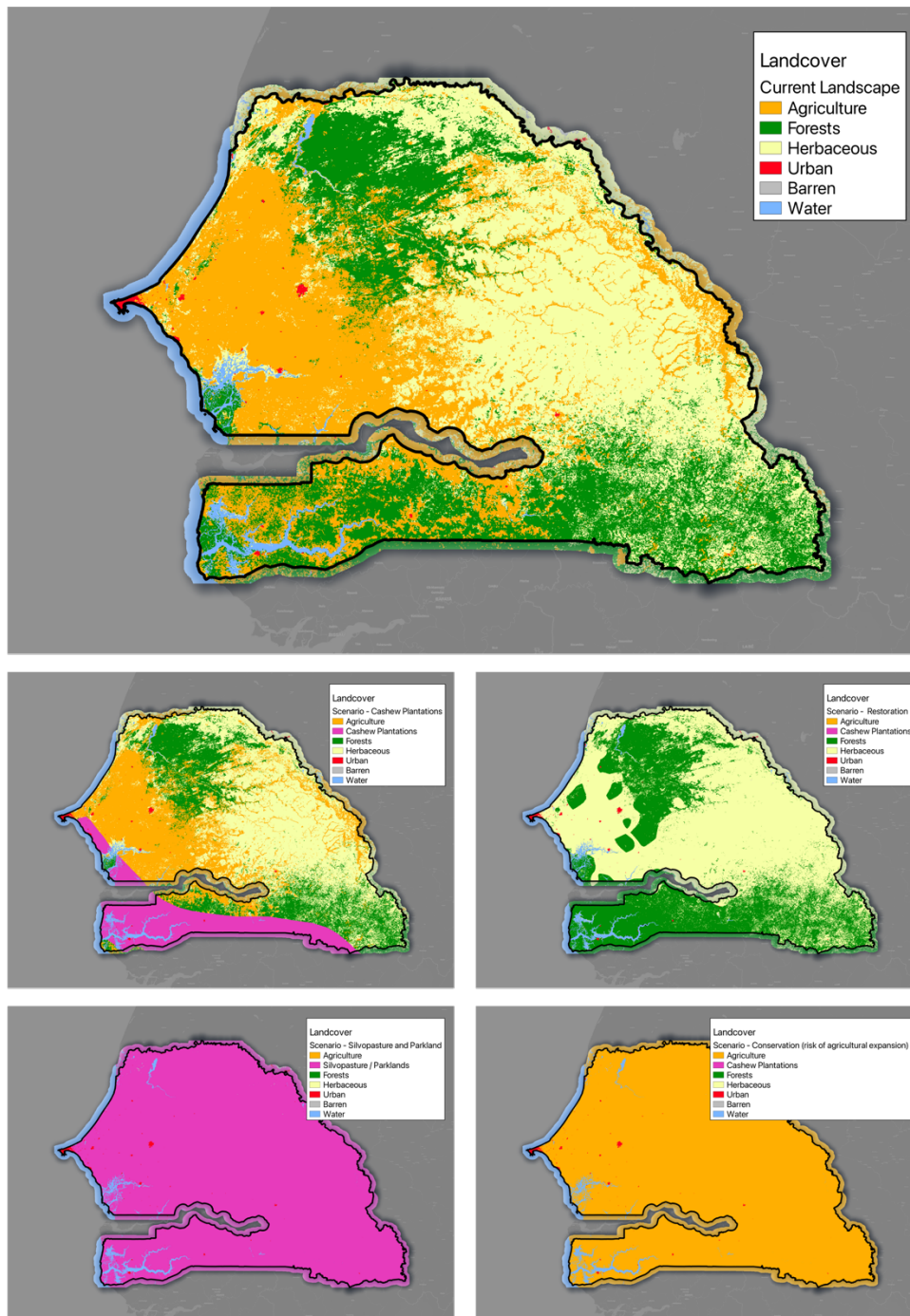


Figure 2. Simplified landcover maps for the current (2015) landscape and the five climate solution scenarios (cashew plantations, silvopasture, agroforestry parklands, restoration, conservation). Note that the silvopasture and parklands scenarios share a landcover map and differ simply in parameter values. Land cover classes here represent aggregate types (i.e., there are many subclassifications of Agriculture, Forests, etc) for visualization purposes—modeling was performed using all available land cover types.

⁴ ESA CCI Landcover Class 40 - Mosaic natural vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (>50%) / cropland (<50%)

⁵ ESA CCI Landcover Class 61 - Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, closed (>40%)

⁶ ESA CCI Landcover Class 100 - Mosaic tree and shrub (>50%) / herbaceous cover (<50%)



Baseflow (mm)

		Cashew Plantations	Parkland Systems	Silvopasture	Restoration	Conservation
Current	20	1	23	20	14	
Agriculture	35	1	16	13		4
Forest	43	0	-1	-3		25

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